

## **Eligibility Requirements for the 2001 Golden State Seal Merit Diploma**

The following information has been prepared to help GSE coordinators identify graduating seniors eligible to receive the Golden State Diploma.

To be eligible for the Golden State Diploma, students must:

- 1) be receiving a high school diploma from their district.
- 2) have earned achievement levels of 4 (recognition), 5 (honors), or 6 (high honors) on six Golden State Examinations including U.S. history; reading/literature or written composition; a mathematics exam; a science exam; and two other exams of the student's choice. In 2001, thirteen examinations were offered:
  - Reading/Literature
  - Written Composition
  - First-year Algebra
  - Geometry
  - High School Mathematics
  - Biology
  - Chemistry
  - Physics
  - Second-year Coordinated Science
  - U.S. History
  - Economics
  - Government/Civics
  - Second-year Spanish Language

School GSE coordinators may use the *Certification of Award-School Summary Sheet* to identify eligible seniors. Complete this form by using GSE documentation (including student cumulative records and/or student electronic records) and the enclosed *Identifying Graduating Seniors* chart to identify students who have completed the requirements for the Golden State Diploma or who may complete the requirements pending GSE results from either the winter or spring 2001 examinations.

If GSE information is incomplete for some students in the school or district, consider surveying the students about their participation in the GSE (e.g., students may provide copies of their GSE certificates or student reports). A student's previous school or district may be contacted for missing information. Educational Data Systems (EDS Inc.) also may be contacted. In order to research student results, the student's name, birthdate, name of the exam, year the exam was taken, and the school where it was administered need to be provided. EDS Inc. can be contacted at (800) 532-4424.

The *Certification of Award* may be completed and forwarded to district GSE coordinators as students qualify. The *District Certification Form* must then be completed and both forms forwarded to EDS Inc. Additional copies of the forms are available at your district office, at EDS Inc., or at [www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/gse](http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/gse) on the Internet.

For questions about the GSE program, contact the Standards and Assessment Division of the California Department of Education at (916) 657-3011 (phone), (916) 657-4964 (fax), or [star@cde.ca.gov](mailto:star@cde.ca.gov) (e-mail).